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densing tube consists of two glass tubes, the inner for the purpose of receiving the evaporated water, and the outer, surrounding completely the inner, containing a constant flow of cold water, admitted through a piece of rubber tubing at "a," while a second piece of rubber tubing forms the outlet at "b." In this way the evaporated water in the inner glass tube is readily cooled and is again transferred to its liquid state. The condensing tube may be clamped to the same support as the flask or to a second one, as illustrated in the diagram.

To distil water for experimental, as well as practical, purposes the flask is filled with water, which is quickly brought to the boiling point. The first portion of the distillate, containing the volatile or gaseous impurities, such as chlorine, ammonia and hydrogen sulphide is rejected, and the balance is collected in a sterile bottle.

From an educational standpoint, this distilling outfit is quite valuable. Being an all glass structure, it furnishes the best means for illustrating in a practical way the principles of a physical change, as the students can observe the change from the liquid to the gaseous state, and back to the liquid, in a substance which they all know so well. Moreover, it illustrates the method of water purification by distillation in a very vivid way, especially if the water has been contaminated by colored, dissolved organic matter, suspended particles of insoluble material, and other gaseous and inorganic substances. The entire apparatus is readily put together and occupies very little space in the laboratory. The different parts can be purchased in any chemical supply house at a very moderate price. The quality of the resulting product is perfect and the cost of operation is practically nothing, as very little gas is used in the process. When cleaning is necessary, the different parts can easily be taken apart and thoroughly cleansed. No further attention is required for the satisfactory functioning of this apparatus.

This distilling outfit has not only been found very valuable as a teaching device, but through its use we have been able to prepare all the distilled water needed for teaching purposes and this has made us, at least in this respect, entirely independent of the hospital supply.

AN IMPROVISED BLACKBOARD

By Elsa Schmidt, B.S., R.N.

The problem of obtaining sufficient blackboard space for effective teaching is an ever present one in most of our schools. Portable blackboards are expensive, are never large enough, and often the surfaces are of such a nature that it is almost impossible to use chalk effectively upon them.

To overcome this difficulty, the City Hospital School of Nursing, Blackwell's Island, New York, has resorted to a new measure, especially suitable for laboratories, where space is often limited.

The laboratory of this school had one portable blackboard, which was used both for teaching dietetics and for the laboratory work in anatomy, bacteriology, chemistry and solutions. In addition to being always in the way when not actually in use, it was quite inadequate in size and frequently, owing to its great ease of portability, it was not found when really needed.

The following scheme was successfully carried out: The so-called "handy man" of the Nurses' Home marked off an area of 5 by 1½ yards on one of the free surfaces of the four walls. This space was carefully sandpapered and immediately after received its first coat of black paint, prepared with oil, which served as a foundation. After 24 hours, another layer of the black color followed, (this time without oil) and finally, in two more days, the black brush completed, from every standpoint, a perfect blackboard. It is important to use oil only for the first coat of paint; the paint for the other two layers must be prepared with turpentine in order to obtain a dull finish. The total cost of our blackboard space of 64.5 square feet was 75 cents.

This has been found a perfectly smooth, steady and convenient surface upon which to write many laboratory directions, to draw diagrams and illustrations of almost any size, and a splendid means for at least four students to be working out problems in solutions, all at the same time. Also, a blackboard of this type occupies no space and costs very little. Its frame never has to be revarnished nor repaired in any other way, and it can never be borrowed.

THE DEATH OF MISS LUCKES

As we close our pages, too late for insertion of the notice in our editorial pages, we learn of the death, in England, on February 16, of Miss Eva E. C. Luckes, one of the outstanding figures in the nursing world. Miss Luckes had been Matron of the London Hospital for nearly forty years and had, by her high ideals, both for work and character, graduated hundreds of nurses who looked to her as a friend and inspiration. She kept in touch with them as they went about their work in the world, and each one thought twice before doing anything of which she would not approve. There are thousands who will mourn her going and who will miss her keenly.

Miss Luckes did not hold the views which are held by most of our American superintendents in regard to nursing organizations, registration, etc., but she did her duty as she saw it, and was a fine, true woman and an exceptional leader.